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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 25
Protection of and assistance to refugees

1. At its 19th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 25, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 25)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 25 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. General support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and for the leading role that the Office is playing in providing protection and assistance to refugees.

4. Concern was expressed that the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 for section 25 was once again presented in the form of a grant, although the General Assembly had requested in its resolution 56/253 that the proposals be more transparent and that the resource requirements be presented by object of expenditure. It was felt that the information was insufficient to ensure proper oversight.

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5. The view was expressed that section 25, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 should have included the information as stipulated in Regulation 5.3 and Rule 105.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. In that connection, it was stated that the section should comply with paragraphs 133 to 136 of General Assembly resolution 56/253, in which the General Assembly deeply regretted that some amounts previously funded under posts, other staff costs, general operating expenses and supplies and materials had been presented in a less transparent manner under the provision of grants and contributions; requested the Secretary-General to reinstate resource requirements by objec of expenditure with provisions other than grants and contributions; and also requested the Secretary-General to review the funding of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from the regular budget in a transparent manner.

6. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the proposed programme budget of UNHCR was presented in the form of a grant in order to streamline the relationship between the Office and the Secretariat and to provide for more flexibility. It was recalled that in accordance with article 20 of the Statute of UNHCR, only administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of the Office of the High Commissioner should be borne by the regular budget, and that all other expenditures relating to the activities of the High Commissioner should be financed by voluntary contributions. Since the regular budget share of UNHCR represented only 5.4 per cent of the total budget available to it and approximately, half of its administrative costs, it was important to provide for some flexibility.

7. Concern was expressed that only one output was proposed for discontinuation, and the office was encouraged to review its programme of publications.

8. In connection with the reference to the publication on microfinance under subprogramme 2, the view was expressed that the Office should not be involved in development activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 25, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 25.4

In the last sentence, replace the words "programme of work will" with the following words: "subprogramme of work on protection will also".

Table 25.5

(a) Add subparagraph (g) to subparagraph (c) in order to form one subparagraph;

(b) Replace the sentence in *Expected accomplishment* (d) with the following sentence: "Progress towards durable solution through formulation, facilitation and active implementation of voluntary repatriation operations in

conditions of safety and dignity, followed up by the monitoring of the situations in countries to which the refugees return";

(c) Under *Indicator of achievement* (d), at the end of the paragraph add the words "in the framework of voluntary repatriation operations";

(d) Replace the sentence in *Expected accomplishment* (e) with the following sentence: "The promotion of local integration as a possible durable solution, where feasible, in accordance with the High Commissioner's strategy of development through local integration";

(e) Under *Indicator of achievement* (f), add a new subsection (iii) containing the following sentence: "The extent to which tools to improve monitoring and oversight of resettlement have been adopted". Under *Performance measures* for 2002-2003, replace the words "1 pilot country" and for 2004-2005 replace the words "5 pilot countries" respectively, with the words "to be determined".

(f) Merge subparagraph (g) with subparagraph (c). After the words "refugee exploitation" in *Expected accomplishment* (c), insert a full stop and the sentence from *Expected accomplishment* (g). Merge *Indicator of achievement* (g) with *Indicator of achievement* (c), producing two subsections containing the following sentences: (i) "Decrease in the number of incidents related to sexual and gender-based violence reported to health clinics in refugee camps"; and (ii) "The number of UNHCR country operations plans reflecting the five priority categories and key sectors". Under *Indicator of achievement* (c), add a new subsection (iii) containing the following sentence: "Development of measurable indicators corresponding to the High Commissioner's five commitments". Under *Performance measures* (c) (iii), add the sentences "2000-2001: not available"; "Estimate 2002-2003: to be determined"; and "Target 2004-2005: to be determined".

Table 25.6

(a) Replace the sentence in *Indicator of achievement* (b) (i) with the following sentence: "The number of initiatives incorporating quality of life of refugees and the surrounding local communities into national development plans";

(b) Under *Indicator of achievement* (b) (ii), delete the words "against core standards";

(c) Under *Indicator of achievement* (b) (iii), replace the word "microfinance" with the word "self-reliance";

(d) Under *Expected accomplishment* (d), replace the word "protect" with the word "assist";

(e) Under *Expected accomplishment* (d), add, at the end of the paragraph, the words "through provision of sufficient voluntary contributions by the international community, in a spirit of burden-sharing and international solidarity";

(f) Under *Indicator of achievement* (d) (ii), delete the words "as well as in the development through local integration strategy";

(g) Under *Indicator of achievement* (d), add a new subsection (iii) with the following sentence: Increase in the level of voluntary contributions provided by the international community". Under *Performance measures* for 2002-2003, replace the words "4 government development agencies", and for 2004-2005 replace the words "8 government development agencies" respectively, with the words "to be determined".

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly be provided, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, with the information as stipulated in Regulation 5.3 and Rule 105.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and in the relevant General Assembly resolution.

11. The Committee emphasized the need for programme managers in the section to comply with the above-mentioned Rules and Regulations.